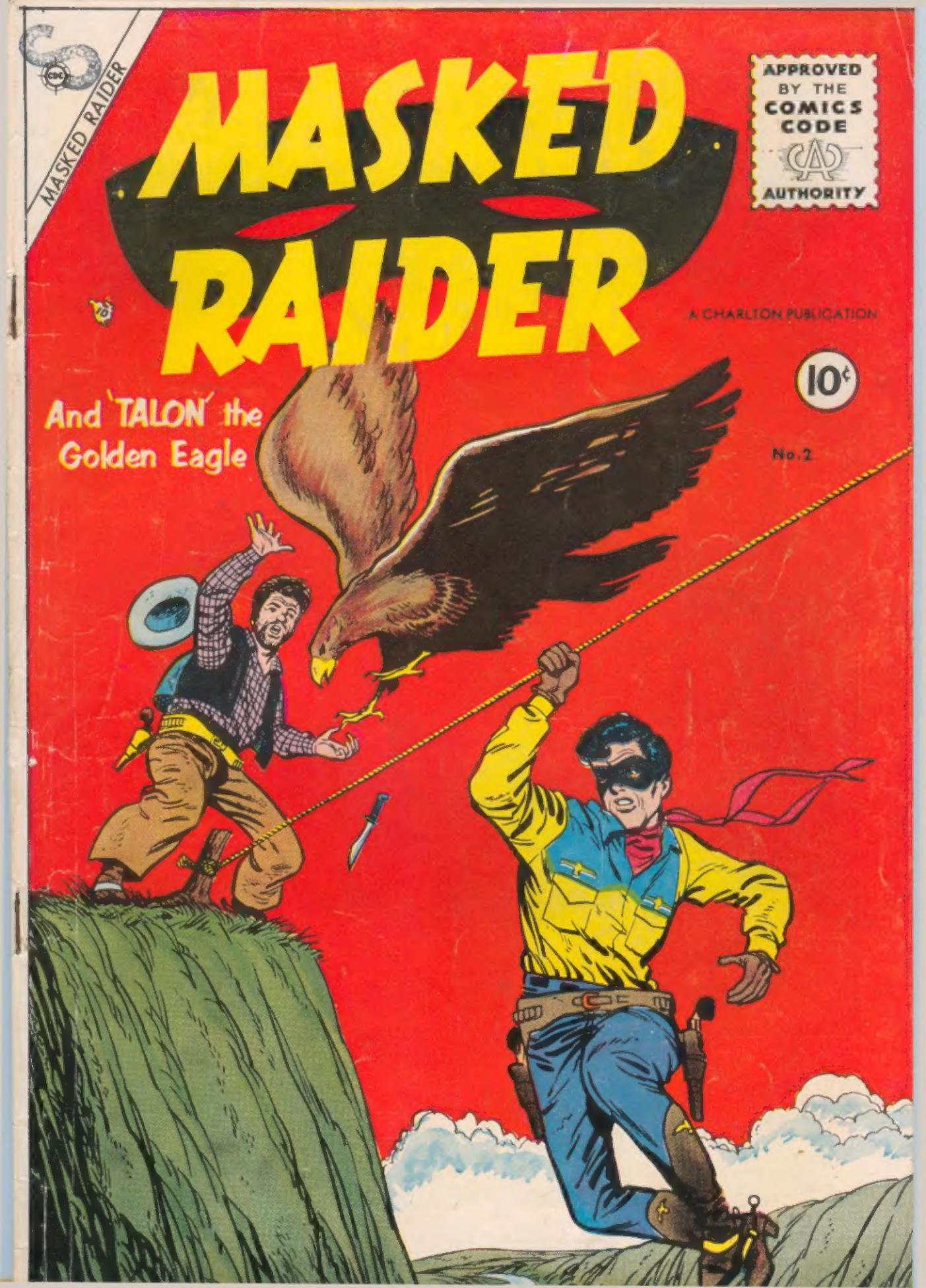
MASKED RAIDER
MASKED RAIDER
And 'TALON' the Golden Eagle
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
A CHARLTON PUBLICATION
10¢
No. 2

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DO YOU NEED EXTRA MONEY?

$35.00 IS YOURS

for selling only 50 boxes of our 300 Christmas card line. And this can be done in a single day. Free samples. Other boxes on approval. Mail coupon below today.

It costs you nothing to try.

Last year some folks made $250—$500—$1,000 and more this very way. Church groups and organizations can do this, too. No experience necessary.

BEST WISHES ALL OCCASION ASSORTMENT
21 luxurious cards—including gold bronzing, dainty hand finishing, matching pastel envelopes

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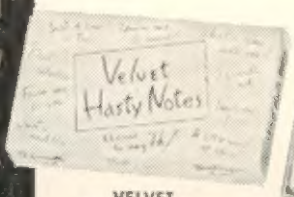

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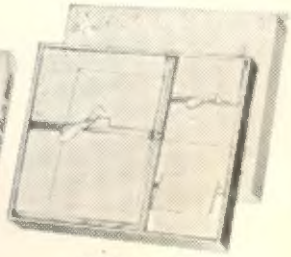
French folders with friendly messages on front in luminous rose and blue velvety flocking



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Please rush free samples, other boxes on approval for FREE TRIAL and full details of your easy money-making plan.

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CHEERFUL CARD COMPANY, Dept. 113, White Plains, New York

MASKED RAIDER Volume 1, Number 2 August, 1955

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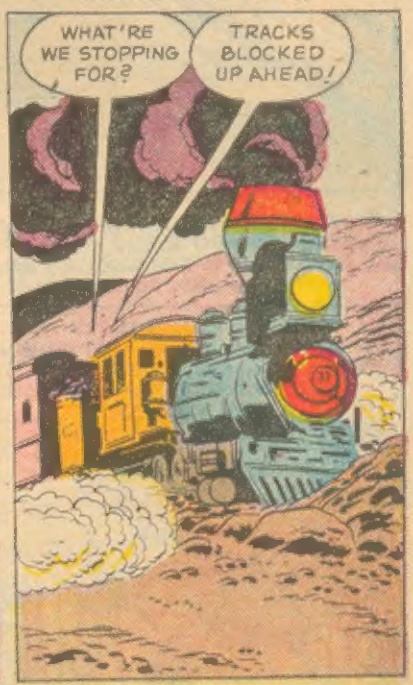
THAT'S A BOX CANYON **THE MASKED RAIDER AND TALON** ARE TRAPPED IN... AND THE OWLHOOTS ARE SURE THOSE STRANGELY PAIRED DEFENDER OF JUSTICE ARE ABOUT TO BREATHE THEIR LAST! THINGS WOULD NOT HAVE COME TO THIS SORRY PASS... IF NOT...

For Talon's Nest

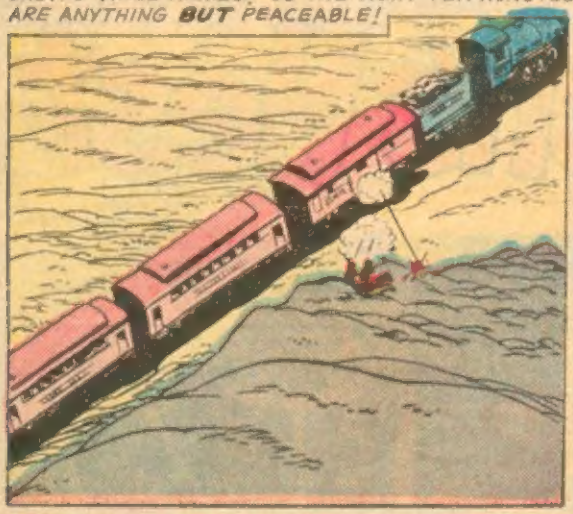
WITH BRAKES SQUEALING LIKE A HUNDRED STUCK PIGS, THE LINCOLN EXPRESS GRINDS TO A STOP NOT FAR FROM DOUGLAS CITY...



IT SURE IS... AND WE'RE THE ONE'S THAT BLOCKED IT! NOW CLIMB DOWN PEACEABLE-LIKE AND CALL TO THE PASSENGERS TO DO THE SAME... AND THERE'LL BE NO TROUBLE!
R.R.

MASKED RAIDER

BUT THERE'S BEEN A STRING OF THESE TRAIN-ROBBERIES HEREABOUTS OF LATE... AND THE TRAIN CREW'S WELL ARMED! SO THE NEXT TEN MINUTES ARE ANYTHING **BUT** PEACEABLE!



FOR A SHORT SPELL THE BATTLE SEE-SAWS... BUT THEN THE OWLHOOTS GET THE UPPER HAND...

JUST SO HAPPENS, THE BOSS OF THE TRAIN-ROBBERS DOESN'T KNOW HIS WATCH CHAIN SNAPPED DURING THE RUCKUS! AND WHEN HE AND HIS MEN PULL OUT...

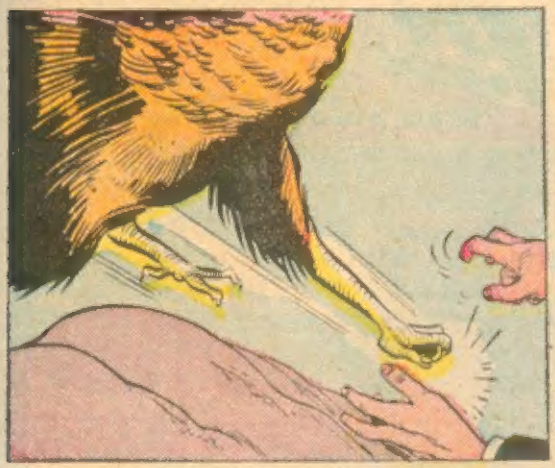
LATER...

HOW LONG WILL IT BE BEFORE WE START UP AGAIN, CONDUCTOR?
SOON AS THE TRACKS CLEARED, MA'AM! THEY'RE WORKING ON IT... HEY! THAT TIMEPIECE!

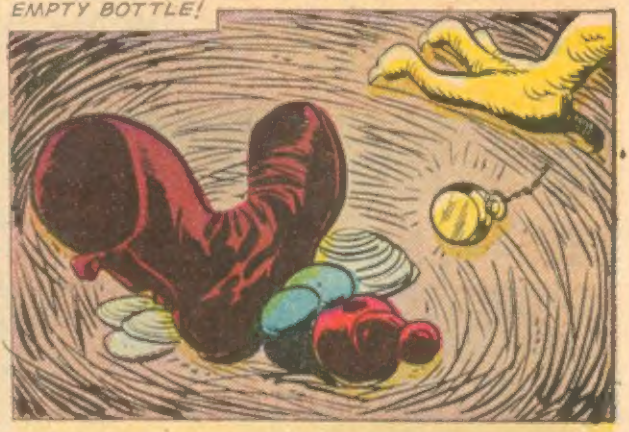
BUT THEN...

MASKED RAIDER

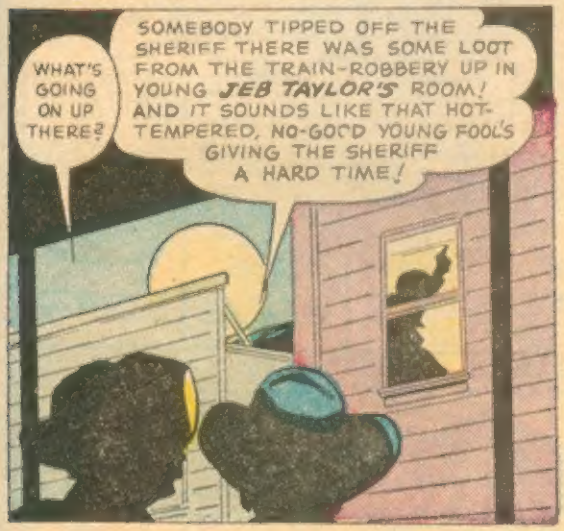
THAT'S **TALON, THE MASKED RAIDER'S** EAGLE SIDE-KICK, WHO'S COME SOARING OVER THE TRACKS **AFTER** THE RUCKUS! AND WHOSE RAZOR KEENE EYES HAVE SPOTTED THE SHINY GOLD DISK FROM WAY UP NEAR THE CLOUDS...



THEY DON'T COME SMARTER THAN **TALON**... BUT AFTER ALL, HE'S STILL **ALL-EAGLE!** AND THERE'S NOT AN EAGLE ALIVE THAT DOESN'T HAVE A STRONG HANKERING AFTER ODD JUNK FOR DECORATING HIS NEST! AND SO THAT'S WHERE THE TRAIN-ROBBER'S TIMEPIECE ENDS UP... **IN TALON'S NEST**, ALONG WITH AN OLD BOOT, SOME BIG SHELLS, AND AN EMPTY BOTTLE!



THAT NIGHT, IN DOUGLAS CITY...


WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE?
SOMEBODY TIPPED OFF THE SHERIFF THERE WAS SOME LOOT FROM THE TRAIN-ROBBERY UP IN YOUNG **JEB TAYLOR'S** ROOM! AND IT SOUNDS LIKE THAT HOT-TEMPERED, NO-GOOD YOUNG FOOL'S GIVING THE SHERIFF A HARD TIME!

IT'S A **FRAME-UP!** JUST BECAUSE I ONCE SERVED A JAIL TERM FOR ROAD AGENTING, SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO FRAME ME! YOU CAN ASK ALL THE MEN DOWN AT THE OFFICE... I WAS THERE ALL AFTERNOON!
NOBODY SAID YOU WERE OUT AT THE TRAIN TODAY, JEB... BUT THE LOOT'S **HERE**... AND THAT'LL TAKE SOME TALL EXPLAINING.

SHORT TIME LATER, IN **LES WILCOX'S** LAW OFFICE.

LES, THEY'VE ARRESTED MY BOOKKEEPER! THE SAY YOUNG JEB'S ONE OF THE GANG THAT'S BEEN PULLING ALL OF THESE HOLD-UPS ON MY RAILROAD LINE! JEB'S ALL ALONE... I WANT YOU TO STAND UP FOR HIM IN COURT!

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For Engagement, Wedding, Friendship, Etc.

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152. Ladies' solitaire ring. Large brilliant simulated diamond in center, 6 smaller stones. Yellow or white gold color effect.

128. Men's birthstone ring. Large beautiful stone in red ruby, green emerald, blue sapphire, etc.

105. Ladies' wedding ring. 6, 8 or 10 brilliant, simulated diamonds. Or fancy weddings with no stones. 1/30 14Kt gold or Sterling Silver.

7. Love & Friendship ring. Solid Sterling Silver with 2 hearts linked. Forget-me-not design.

169. Ladies' engagement ring. Large, simulated diamond, 2 smaller stones. 1/20 14Kt gold filled or 1/30 14Kt RGP or Sterling Silver.

156. Men's massive Good Luck Horseshoe ring. 4-leaf clover, white or yellow gold color effect.

146. Ladies' dinner ring. Gorgeous, large simulated diamond and many smaller white or colored stones.

114. Very Special! Ladies' solitaire ring with genuine Zircon, the nearest thing to a genuine diamond. With 2 side stones. 1/30 14Kt yellow gold mounting.

109. Men's dress ring with sparkling, simulated diamond, shiny yellow gold color effect mounting.

112. Men's exquisite Masonic ring. Yellow gold color effect. Must be worn to be appreciated.

158. Men's Indian Chief's head ring. Yellow or white gold color effect. Also in boys' sizes. Ring comes also as imported, hand carved Ebony Bull.

158. Ladies' Friendship Target - the old and modern style wedding ring. 1/20 14Kt yellow gold filled or 12Kt gold plate or heavy Sterling Silver. Assorted designs.

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157. Men's beautiful, heavy Cameo ring. Large 2-toned Cameo. Classic knight-in-armor and girl design. Yellow or white gold color effect.

44. Men's traditional wedding ring. Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

162. Men's massive lion head ring. Large, simulated diamond in mouth. 2 smaller red stones as eyes.

115. Ladies' engagement ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond and many smaller stones. Unusual step design. Sterling Silver, yellow or white gold color effect.

116. Ladies' exquisite wedding ring. 9 or 7 matching simulated diamonds all around. Fishtail setting. Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

163. Men's ring. Large, sparkling, simulated red ruby 1/20 12Kt yellow gold filled or 1/30 14Kt RGP. Also white gold color effect.

171. Ladies' engagement ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond with 4 or 6 smaller side stones. 1/30 14Kt RGP.

170. Ladies' graceful wedding ring. 7 brilliant, good-sized, matching, simulated diamonds. 1/30 14Kt RGP.

127. Men's ring. Beautiful, large 20Kt-size, simulated red ruby stone. Stone comes in all colors. White gold color effect.

141. Ladies' cluster dinner ring. A beautiful gem. 7 or 12 brilliant, simulated diamonds. Center stone is simulated red ruby. Pierced mounting. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect.

104. Ladies' gorgeous dinner ring. Large, brilliant simulated center diamond, 6 marquise-cut and many smaller stones. Very rare wish so many stones. Ring also comes in starring designs.

168. Ladies' exquisite engagement ring. 2 large, brilliant, simulated center diamonds, 2 or 4 matching side stones. Sterling Silver or 1/30 14Kt gold RGP.

42. Unique hand-clasp love & friendship ring. Comes apart to form 2 rings. Sterling Silver.

164. Men's massive veteran's discharge ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow gold color effect.

73. Ladies' beautiful 2-toned Cameo ring. Yellow gold color effect.

160. Men's large square cut, simulated garnet ring. Yellow or white gold color effect.

152. Sweetheart ring. 2 simulated rubies on engraved hearts. Yellow gold color effect.

106. Men's solitaire ring. Large, brilliant 20-size simulated diamond. Fine heavy mounting.

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161. Ladies' dinner ring. Gorgeous peacock design. 15 sparkling, simulated rubies, sapphires, emeralds. White gold color effect.

149. Ladies' dinner ring. Unusual design. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, about 20 smaller stones. White gold color effect or Sterling Silver. Ring also comes in

147. Ladies' exquisite cluster dinner ring. 9 large, simulated diamonds and many smaller stones. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect.

SEND NO MONEY! RUSH CONVENIENT ORDER COUPON NOW!

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129. Men's solitaire ring. Large, brilliant, simulated 1Kt. or 2Kt-size diamond. Sterling Silver, yellow or white gold color effect.

101. Dainty, exquisitely designed baby ring. 10Kt solid yellow gold mounting. Makes priceless mementa.

121. Men's heavy Sterling Silver square or round shaped signet ring. Suitable for engraving initials. Also in yellow or white gold color effect.

154. Ladies' birthstone ring. Sparkling, square-cut, 1Kt to 4Kt-size CZ, Ireland's green emerald. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect. Stone comes in all colors.

151. Men's ring. Simulated red ruby in center, 2 simulated white diamonds. Yellow or white gold color effect. Also with 3 large white stones.

142. Men's U.S. Army insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

145. Men's U.S. Navy insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

144. Men's U.S. Marine Corps insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

143. Men's U.S. Air Force insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.

4. Friendship ring. Smart looking, popular sweetheart design. Solid Sterling Silver.

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I enclose total amount $ _____ ☐ cash, ☐ money order (we pay all postage).

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman $1.74 each plus postal charges. If I am not satisfied I may return order within 10 days and get my money back.

(please print your name and address)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

NOTE: No C.O.D.'s to Canada or outside U.S.A. Please send $2.00 cash with order (for each item).

MASKED RAIDER

LES WILCOX RUSHES OVER TO THE LOCK-UP.
I DIDN'T DO IT... BUT NOBODY'LL BELIEVE ME! THEY'RE ALL RILED UP BECAUSE SOME FOLKS WERE HURT BAD ON THE TRAIN-ROBBERY BEFORE THIS LAST ONE!
I'LL BE WORKING FOR YOU, JEB. MEANWHILE, TRY TO RELAX. CARRYING ON THIS WAY WILL ONLY SET EVERYBODY AGAINST YOU EVEN MORE!
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR HIM?
LOOKS BAD. THE CIRCUIT JUDGE IS IN TOWN THIS WEEK... AND EVERYBODY'S OUT THUMPING FOR A QUICK TRIAL!
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
IF ONLY I KNEW WHICH WAY TO TURN FIRST...
LES WILCOX!
HOWDY, SAM... HOW'S THE CONDUCTORING BUSINESS LATELY?
FINE, GLAD TO HEAR THEY CAUGHT UP WITH ONE OF THE TRAIN ROBBERS AT LAST! AND THEY'D HAVE HAD ANOTHER IF NOT FOR THAT DRATTED EAGLE!
EAGLE! WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ONE OF THE MASKED GALOOTS DROPPED HIS TIMEPIECE JUST AS HE RODE OFF. I WAS ABOUT TO PICK IT UP... WHEN THIS BIG GOLDEN EAGLE SWOOSHED DOWN, GRABBED IT, AND FLEW RIGHT OFF!
THE ONLY EAGLE IN THESE PARTS WHO'D DIVE DOWN INTO A GROUP OF MEN IS TALON! BUT WHY? HMMM... LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO HAVE A HEART-TO-HEART TALK WITH THAT FEATHERED SIDEKICK OF MINE!
I'M GLAD YOU TOLD ME ABOUT THAT, SAM ...I'M VERY GLAD!
SOON AS HE CAN, LES WILCOX MOUNTS UP AND RIDES TO THE SECRET CAVE WHERE HIS MASKED RAIDER OUTFIT IS HIDDEN! AND THEN, AFTER CLIMBING A TIGHT-WINDING MOUNTAIN TRAIL...

MASKED RAIDER

LESS THAN A MINUTE LATER...
EASY, TALON, EASY... LAND LIGHT ON MY SHOULDER!
YOUR NEST, TALON... SEE? BRING DOWN WHAT YOU HAVE IN YOUR NEST, ALL THE JUNK YOU LIKE TO COLLECT... EVERYTHING THAT'S IN YOUR NEST.
THE EAGLE TAKES AIR WITH A CLAP OF HIS GIANT WINGS! AND HE MAKES TRIP AFTER TRIP BETWEEN HIS EYRIE AND WHERE THE MASKED RAIDER STANDS...
THAT'S NOT IT...TRY AGAIN...
THAT'S IT! GOOD BOY, TALON! EASY NOW...WE DON'T WANT IT SMASHED! I WANT TO BE ABLE TO READ IT'S OWNER'S NAME!
IT'S THE NEXT DAY NOW, AND THE CIRCUIT JUDGE IS HOLDING COURT...
HOW CAN I TELL YOU WHO THE OTHER GANG MEMBERS ARE WHEN I'M NOT A MEMBER OF THE GANG?!
DON'T SHOUT, YOUNG MAN! MY HEARING'S JUST AS GOOD AS YOURS!
JUST THEN...
GOT A NOTE FOR YOU, SHERIFF. SOMEBODY MUST'VE SLIPPED IT UNDER YOUR OFFICE DOOR THIS MORNING.
AFTER READING THE NOTE, THE SHERIFF POW-WOWS WITH THE JUDGE, AND THEN...
COURT ADJOURNED FOR THE DAY.
WHAT'RE THEY DOING THAT FOR? JEB TAYLOR'S GUILTY ...IT'S WRITTEN PLAIN ALL OVER HIS FACE!

MASKED RAIDER

THAT NIGHT, IN A BIG HOUSE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN...

TH-THE MASKED RAIDER! WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT HERE?

THIS IS YOUR WATCH...RIGHT? IT HAS YOUR NAME ENGRAVED ON IT...

PRETTY SLICK, HEATHERSTONE...PULLING ALL THOSE JOBS ON YOUR OWN RAILROAD...THEN TRYING TO PIN THEM ON YOUR BOOKKEEPER JUST BECAUSE HE HAS A RECORD! BUT YOUR WATCH GAVE YOU AWAY!

THUMP! THUMP! THUMP!

HEAR THAT? THAT'S THE BOSS'S TROUBLE SIGNAL!

WHAT'RE WE WAITING FOR? LET'S HIT THAT STAIRCASE!

THUMP! THUMP!

BUT WHEN THE GANG PILES INTO MR. HEATHERSTONE'S STUDY...

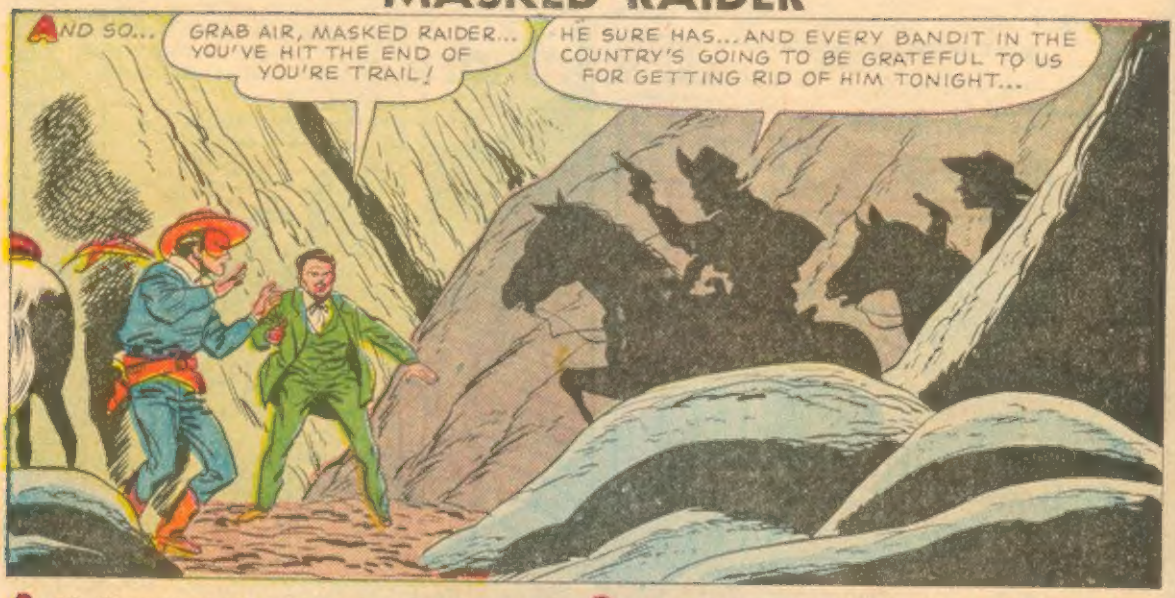
N-NOBODY'S HERE!

LOOK! THE MASKED RAIDER'S GOT HIM! THEY'RE RIDING AWAY ...BUT THEY'RE DOUBLE-MOUNTED... WON'T BE HARD CATCHING UP WITH THEM!

WE'RE GAINING...BUT HOLD YOUR FIRE! WE DON'T WANT TO HIT THE BOSS!

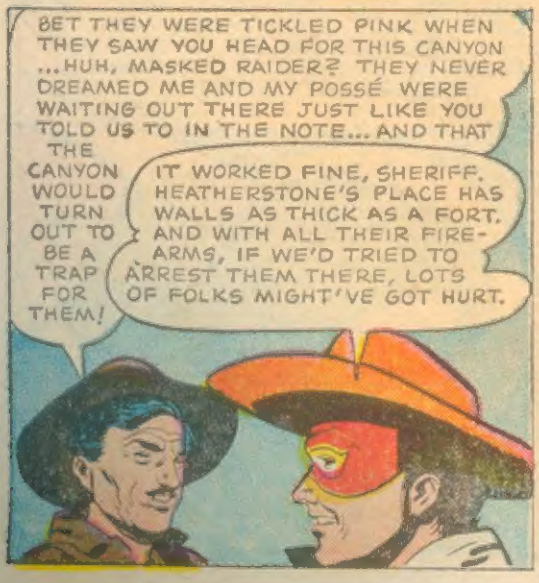
THE FOOL TOOK THE WRONG FORK IN THE TRAIL! HE'S HEADED RIGHT FOR A BOX CANYON! ALL MY GANG HAS TO DO IS FOLLOW HIM IN... AND HE'LL BE BOTTLED UP!

MASKED RAIDER


AND SO...
GRAB AIR, MASKED RAIDER... YOU'VE HIT THE END OF YOU'RE TRAIL!
HE SURE HAS... AND EVERY BANDIT IN THE COUNTRY'S GOING TO BE GRATEFUL TO US FOR GETTING RID OF HIM TONIGHT...

A SPLIT-SECOND AFTER THE MASKED RIDER'S HANDS EDGE UP...
HEY!
I'LL HANDLE THE EAGLE! THE REST OF YOU WORK ON THE MASKED RAIDER! DON'T LET HIM GET AWAY!

BUT THE MASKED RAIDER AND TALON ARE NOT ALONE TONIGHT...
TH-THE SHERIFF AND A POSSE!
STAND FAST, YOU ORNERY COYOTES! THE CIRCUIT JUDGE IS WAITING ON ALL OF YOU BACK IN TOWN RIGHT NOW!


BET THEY WERE TICKLED PINK WHEN THEY SAW YOU HEAD FOR THIS CANYON ...HUH, MASKED RAIDER? THEY NEVER DREAMED ME AND MY POSSÉ WERE WAITING OUT THERE JUST LIKE YOU TOLD US TO IN THE NOTE... AND THAT THE CANYON WOULD TURN OUT TO BE A TRAP FOR THEM!
IT WORKED FINE, SHERIFF. HEATHERSTONE'S PLACE HAS WALLS AS THICK AS A FORT. AND WITH ALL THEIR FIREARMS, IF WE'D TRIED TO ARREST THEM THERE, LOTS OF FOLKS MIGHT'VE GOT HURT.

WHAT A TEAM... THOSE TWO! JUST ONE MAN AND ONE EAGLE... BUT THEY'RE LIKE A TON OF DYNAMITE WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING LAW-BREAKERS!
YOUNG JEB TAYLOR'S SURE LUCKY THEY TOOK A HAND! WITH JUST THAT DUDE LAWYER, LES WILCOX, STANDING UP FOR HIM... HE'D HAVE BEEN A GONER FOR SURE!
The End

HUCK and BUCK
HI, THERE, BUCK! DID YUH ENJOY YORE VISIT TO THE BIG CITY?
NO, HUCK, EVERYTHING MOVES TOO FAST FER ME THERE!
WHAT DO YUH MEAN, TOO FAST?
WELL FER INSTANCE ON MY WAY DOWNTOWN ONE MORNING, THEY WERE STARTING TO PUT UP A TWENTY STORY BUILDING
WHAT ABOUT
WELL ON MUH WAY BACK THAT NIGHT, THE LANDLORD WAS ALREADY PUTTING TENANTS OUT OF THAT SAME TWENTY STORY BUILDING FER NOT PAYING RENT
THAT'S NOT FAST BUILDING, BUCK! THAT'S WHAT I CALL FAST LYING!
WELL, I'VE GOT TO ADMIT YA GOT ME THERE! I RECKON I'M THE CHAMPION LIAR IN THE WHOLE WEST!
OH NO YOU'RE NOT I AM.
NONSENSE! I CAN TELL BIGGER LIES THAN YUH ANY DAY!

MASKED RAIDER

I'LL BET YUH A DAY'S WORK I CAN OUTLIE YUH!
IT'S A BET! START LYING!
TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO THERE LIVED IN A HOUSE EIGHT INCHES HIGH AND FIVE THOUSAND MILES LONG, A MAN WHO WAS EIGHT HUNDRED YEARS OLD!
I THOUGHT YUH SAID YUH WERE GOING TO LIE!
DON'T INTERRUPT ME WELL, ONE DAY I FOUND THIS EIGHT-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD MAN SITTING ON A ROCK CRYING LIKE A BABY, SO I ASKED HIM WHY AND DO YUH KNOW WHAT HE SAID?
GO AHEAD AND TELL ME!
HE SAID HE WAS CRYING BECAUSE HIS FATHER HAD JUST WHIPPED HIM FER TOSSING ROCKS AT HIS GRANDFATHER!
IS THAT ALL?
WHAT DO YUH MEAN IS THAT ALL? YUH CAN'T TOP THAT LIE SO YO'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO A DAYS WORK FER ME
JUST HOLD ON DID THAT EIGHT-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD MAN HAVE JET BLACK HAIR AND A FULL SET OF TEETH?
HE SURE DID!
THEN YO'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO HAVE TO DO A DAY'S WORK FER ME, BECAUSE I'M OUTLYING YUH RIGHT NOW!
THAT EIGHT-HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS MUH SON!
EEK!

MASKED RAIDER

PONY EXPRESS RIDER

By DONALD GEORGE

TO carry on the work of the famous Pony Express required between 400 and 500 horses, about 190 stations, 200 men for station keepers, and 83 riders. The riders made an average ride of 33 1 3 miles. In doing this, each man rode 3 ponies on his part of the route. Some of the riders, however, rode much greater distances in times of emergency.

The Pony Express carried messages written on tissue paper, weighing one-half an ounce. The charge for sending such a message was five dollars. The weight to be carried by each rider was fixed at ten pounds or less. Each rider received a salary of about $125 a month for his services.

When the Pony Express started, the amount of business did not cover one-tenth of its expenses.

Two important events occurred during the Pony Express' existence. One was the carrying of President Buchanan's last message to Congress in December, 1860. The trip from the Missouri River to Sacramento, a distance of 2,000 miles, was made in a little over eight days. The other event was the carrying of President Lincoln's inaugural address of March 4, 1861, over the same route. The time was seven days and seventeen hours.

In 1853 a group of men were discussing the length of time it would take to ride from Santa Fe, New Mexico to Independence, Missouri, a distance of 800 miles. F. X. Aubry, a French Canadian and a famous Santa Fe Trail rider, bet he could do it in eight days. The stakes were set at one thousand dollars. He rode all the way with no rest and changed horses every hundred or two hundred miles. He kept a lead horse by his side most of the time, and when the one he was riding gave out entirely, he changed the saddle to the extra horse, left the horse he had been riding, and went on again at full speed. He did it in five days and thirteen hours. No wonder they named a Missouri steamer for him, *F. X. Aubry*, which bore on her hurricane deck the figure of a man on horseback riding at full speed!

The lighter the Pony Express rider, the better. Jay G. Kelly weighed one hundred pounds when he carried the mails. Years later, when he talked about his adventures, he tipped the scales at two hundred thirty pounds. I think it best to let him tell you his story in his own language:

"Yes, I was a Pony Express rider in 1860, and went out with Roberts, one of the best men that ever lived, and I tell you it was no picnic. No amount of money could tempt me to repeat my experiences of those days. To begin with, we had to build willow roads, corduroy fashion, across many places along the Carson River, carrying bundles of willows two and three hundred yards in our arms, while the air was thick with mosquitoes.

Arriving at the Sink of the Carson River, we began to build a fort to protect us from the Indians. There were no rocks or logs in that vicinity, so we built the fort of adobes, made from the mud on the shores of the lake. To mix this mud and get the proper consistency to mold into adobes (dried bricks) we tramped around all day in it in our bare feet. We did this for a week or more, so you can imagine the condition of our feet. They were very swollen, and looked like hams. Before that time I wore number six boots, but ever since then number nine fit me snugly.

We next built a fort of stone at Sand Springs, twenty-five miles from Carson Lake, and another at Cold Springs, thirty-seven

miles east of Sand Springs. At Sand Springs I was assigned to duty as assistant station-keeper, under Jim McNaughton. The war against the Piute Indians was then at its height, and we were in the middle of the [illegible] for us to stand guard night and day. The Indians were often seen skulking around, but none of them ever came near enough for us to get a shot at them, 'til one dark night, when I was on guard, I noticed one of our horses prick up its ears and stare. I looked in the direction indicated and saw an Indian's head projecting above the wall.

My instructions were to shoot if I saw an Indian within shooting distance, as that would wake the boys quicker than anything else; so I fired and missed my man.

Later on we saw the Indian campfires on the mountain, and in the morning saw many tracks. They evidently intended to stampede our horses and if necessary, kill us. The next day one of our riders, a Mexican, rode into camp with a bullet hole through him from the left to the right side. He was shot by Indians while coming down Edwards Creek, in the Quakenasp bottom. He told us this as we assisted him off his horse. He was tenderly cared for, but died before surgical aid could reach him.

Since I was the lightest man at the station, I was ordered to take the Mexican's place on the route. My weight was then one hundred pounds. Two days after taking the route, on my return trip, I had to ride through the forest of Quakenasp trees where the Mexican had been shot. A trail had been cut through these little trees, just wide enough to allow horse and rider to pass. The road was crooked and the low branches came together from either side—just above my head when mounted—so it was impossible to see more than ten or fifteen yards ahead. The trail was two miles long.

I expected to have trouble, and prepared for it by dropping my bridle reins on the neck of my horse and putting my Sharp's rifle at full cock. I kept both spurs into the flanks, and my horse went through that forest like a streak of greased lightning.

At the top of the hill I dismounted to rest my horse, and looking back, saw the bushes moving in several places. There were no cattle or game in that vicinity, so I knew the movements must be caused by Indians. I was more positive of it when, after firing several shots at the moving bushes, all agitation ceased.

There were other close calls. One day I trotted into Sand Springs, hot and covered with dust. Before reaching the station, I saw several men running toward me, carrying rifles. I supposed they took me for an Indian, so I stopped and threw up my hands. It seemed they had a spy-glass in camp, and recognizing me, had come to the conclusion I was being run in by Piutes and were coming to my rescue.

Some of the boys had several fights with Indians, but they did not trouble us as much as we expected. I only met them once face to face. I was rounding a bend in the mountains, and before I knew it, was in a camp of Piute Indians. Buffalo Jim, the chief, came toward me. He spoke good English and when within ten yards of me, I told him to stop. He did and told me he wanted *tobac* (tobacco). I gave him half of mine, but the old fellow wanted it all, and I finally refused to give him any more. He then took another step toward me, saying that he wanted to look at my gun. I pulled the gun out of the saddle-hock and again told him to stop. He evidently saw that I meant business, for, with a wave of his hand, he said 'All right, you pooty good boy. You go.' I did not need a second order, and quickly as possible rode out of their presence, looking back however, as long as they were in sight and keeping my rifle handy."

Today the Pony Express is only a western memory, but the spirit of those early riders will live forever.

THE END

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NAME ..... AGE .....

STREET or RFD .....

TOWN ..... Zone ..... STATE .....

BOOT BAKER
POLKA DOT GANG
C'MON, VULLAN, WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A BEELINE FOR SAWYER'S RANCH AND CATCH 'EM! LET'S GO!!
HEY! THEY WENT THAT WAY!
HE'S PLUMB CRAZY GOING THE OPPOSITE WAY!
BOOT BAKER, A NAME FEARED BY RUSTLERS AND ROBBERS THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF
SAY THAT'S QUITE A ROLL FOR A COWPOKE TO HAVE
WHAT'S IT TO YAH, NOSEY?
MAYBE THAT NOSE NEEDS
I'LL GIT YAH OOOW!
OOOOF!

MASKED RAIDER

WHEN BOOT BAKER CAME TO SILVER CITY FOR A REST HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT HE WOULD MEET UP WITH THE POLKA DOT GANG
OMFORTABLE, AIN'T I?
THIS IS JUST WHAT I CRAVE YOU SURE HAVE A PLACE TOWN FOR A VACATION
I AM SOME TIMES
WHEW, THE POLKA DOT GANG, DUCK!
DID I SAY QUIET?
AND ME WITH VULCAN IN THE STA- BLE AND MY PO- TOLS IN A VA-
TAKE ONE OF MINE LET'S HIS- TLE!
DANG IT! WE'RE TOO LATE!
SURE FAST, THAT MOB, AND NIGHT'S TA- TO CATCH THEM!
BANK
LADIES
LOOKS LIKE THEY KNEW WHERE THE MONEY WAS!
LOOK AT THEM!
WHERE'S MR JACKSON, THE PRESI- DENT?
CLEANED EVERYTHING OUT, VAULTS AND ALL WHAT IN TARNATION AM I GOING TO DO NOW? THAT BIG SAWYER AC- OUNT JUST CAME IN YESTERDAY, TOO!
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT SAWYER? HE BANK HERE?
HE BROUGHT IN $10,000 YESTER DAY AND I SHOWED HIM HOW SAFE IT WAS GO- ING TO BE IN THIS BLASTED VAULT!
A LITTLE TIME MR JACKSON WE'LL CA H THE CA

MASKED RAIDER

MASKED RAIDER

THE BANK SENT ME DOWN TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE ROBBERY THEY'VE BEEN CLEANED OUT BY THE POLKA DOT
WHAT? I HAD EVERY PENNY I OWN IN THERE!
THAT'S TOO BAD, BOSS!
YEAH, GUESS WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT FOR OUR PAY!
THAT'S MY BUSINESS MISTER I TREAT MY MEN NICE AND THEY STICK BY ME SEE? THAT RIGHT BOYS?
HA! HA
THAT'S A QUEER OUTFIT! IF I LOST $10,000, I WOULDN'T BE LAUGHING MUCH!
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
LATER THAT EVENING
I'M GOING TO MOSEY AROUND TOWN. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO SOME OF THE TOWN FOLKS

MASKED RAIDER

TWO OF SAWYER'S BOYS... THEY CERTAINLY LOOK ORNERY!
WHAT A ROLL!
HELLO KID!
T'S THE SNOOPER BART WHO WAS AT THE RANCH THIS MORNIN WHAT IS YUH WANT?
THAT'S QUITE A ROLL FOR COWPOKES WHO HAVEN'T BEEN PAID!
GIVE IT TO YUH LOSEY?
MAYBE THAT NOSE OF HIS IS TOO LONG!
I'LL SETTLE FOR IT!
NOT ON YOUR LIFE
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
I'VE GOT AN ANSWER FOR THAT TOO!
OOUF!
I'LL OOCH! MY HAND!
BAR NAUGHTY
SIT DOWN AT A TABLE AND DEAL THE CARDS AS YOU
OOUF!

WE'LL GIT YOU FOR THIS..
I'LL FOLLOW THEM AND HEAR HOW THEY TELL THE STORY! MAYBE I'LL LEARN SOME THING
THAT SOUNDS LIKE LANNER AND HE HAD HIM THAT SHUTTER SHOT!
AS HE PULLS A GUN ON HIM AT THE MOMENT HE SEES THE MONEY
YOU LOBOS! HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO FLASH ANY MONEY?!
NOW BOYS WE'LL MAKE A REAL JOB OF THE NEXT ONE!
THAT'S JUST OOOORDS!
WHAT'S THAT? QUICK THERE'S SOMEONE OUTSIDE SNOOPIN'!
CRAK!
THERE HE IS, AND I WANT

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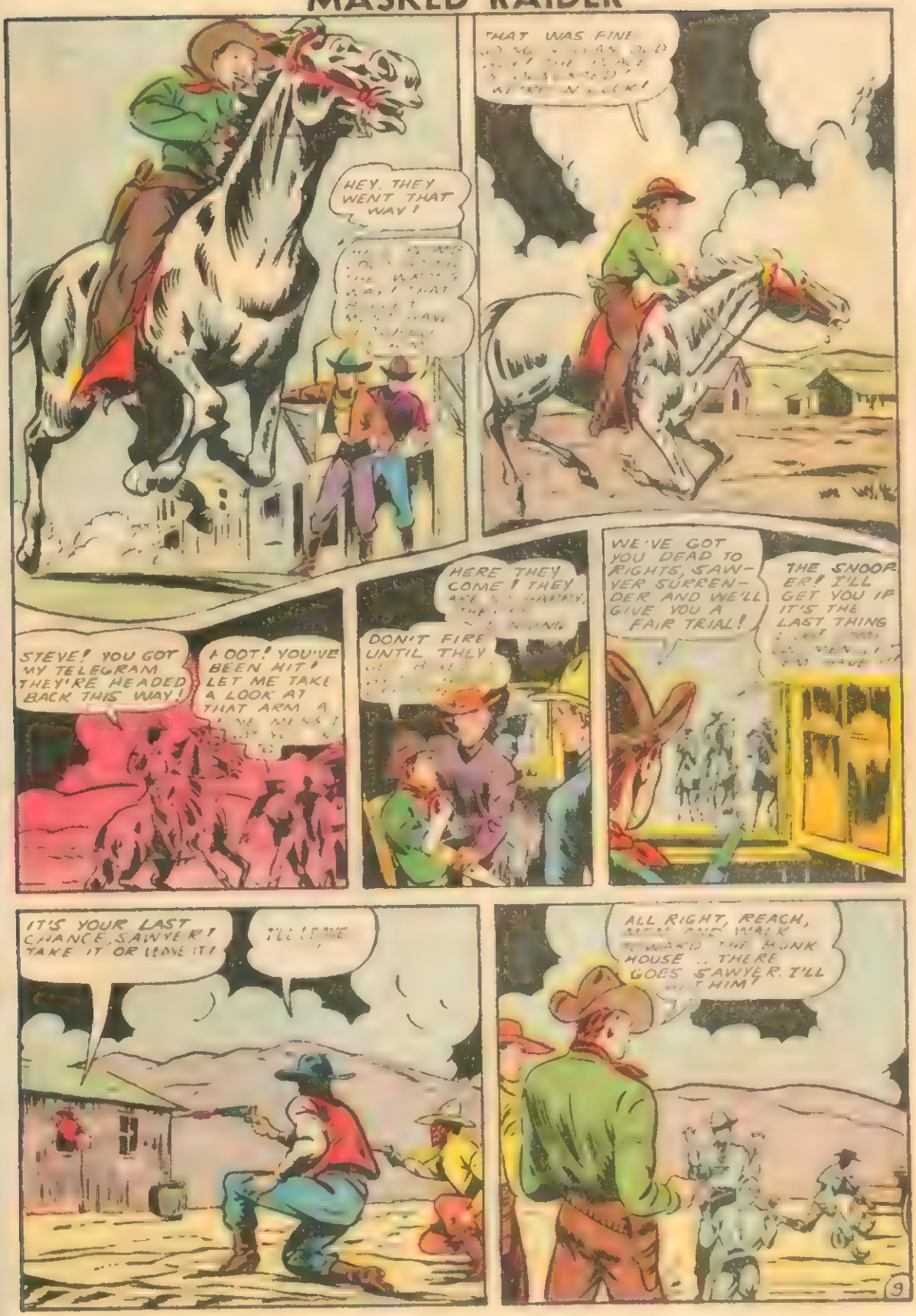
MASKED RAIDER

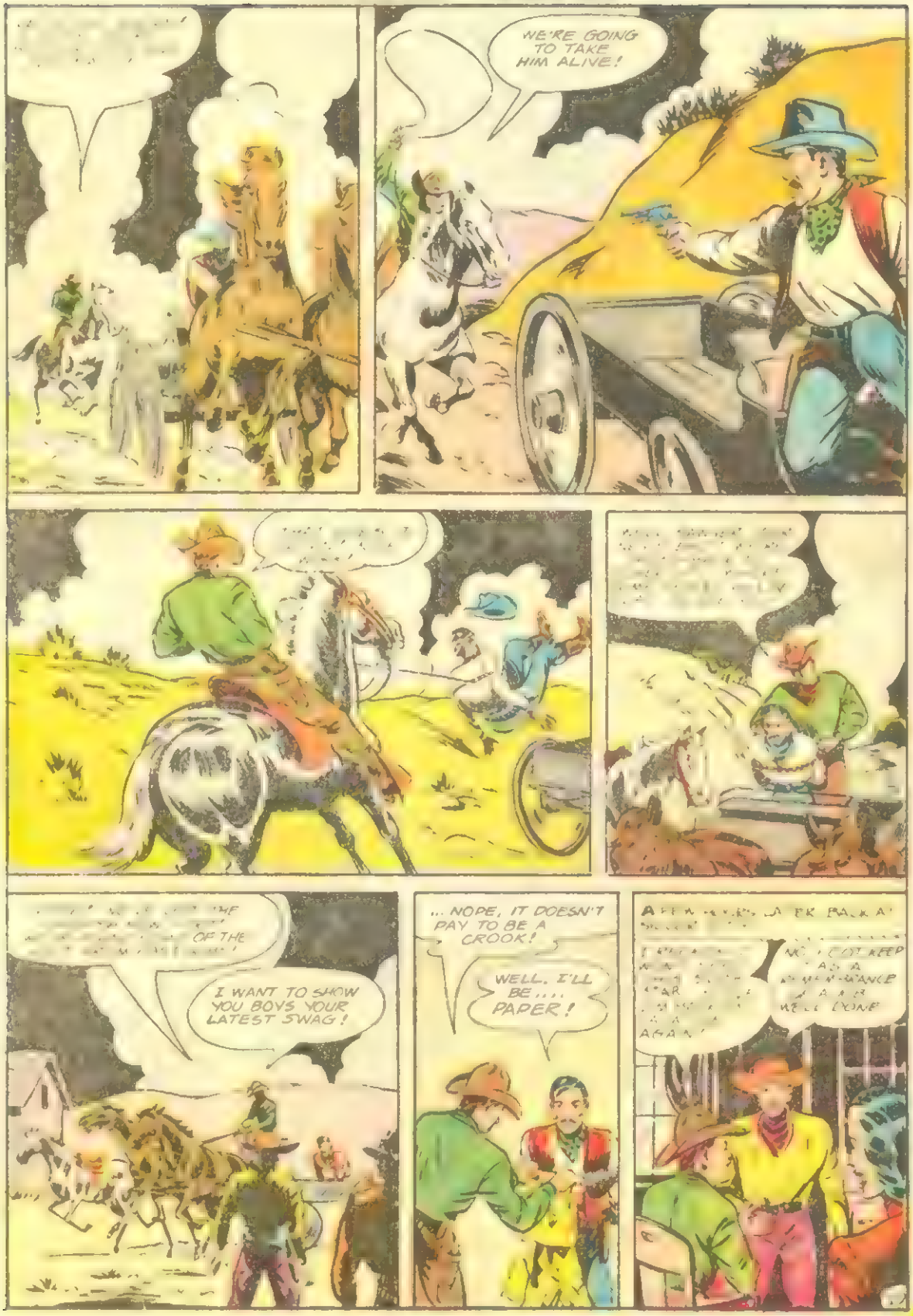
GIT! I HOPE THIS WORKS OR OTHERWISE I'LL HAVE TO TRADE LEAD!
AFTER THE SKUNK! HE'S STEAL-
IT WORKED! NOW TO GET OUT OF HERE!
VULCAN! I'LL HAVE A TALK WITH THE BANK PRESIDENT OF PALMERTOWN
I GOT $15 000 HERE AND I WANT TO MAKE SURE IT'LL BE
MERTON
ANK
I'M GOING TO BE ONE OF YOUR CLERKS TOMORROW

MASKED RAIDER

THE NEXT DAY...
TODAY ... SOMETHING JUMPY ... THERE'S ONE OF SAWYER'S MEN NOW! THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE AN EN... REAL DIFFERENT JOB THAN...
EVERYBODY REACH! THE BANK'S ...
COME AND GET IT!
CRASH!
MY ARM!
HURT MORE,
FOLKS IF YOU DON'T
WHAT A MESS! ... ME!
WITH THEM YET! THEY'VE GOT TO TAKE THE LONG ROUTE OVER THE ROCK ...
TO MEET ME AT THE LAZY W RIGHT AWAY!


HEY, THEY WENT THAT WAY!
THAT WAS FINE
STEVE! YOU GOT MY TELEGRAM THEY'RE HEADED BACK THIS WAY!
OOT! YOU'VE BEEN HIT! LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT THAT ARM A
HERE THEY COME! THEY
DON'T FIRE UNTIL THEY
WE'VE GOT YOU DEAD TO RIGHTS, SAWYER SURRENDER AND WE'LL GIVE YOU A FAIR TRIAL!
THE SNOOPER! I'LL GET YOU IF IT'S THE LAST THING
IT'S YOUR LAST CHANCE, SAWYER! TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!
I'LL LEAVE
ALL RIGHT, REACH, AND WALK
HOUSE .. THERE GOES SAWYER. I'LL
9

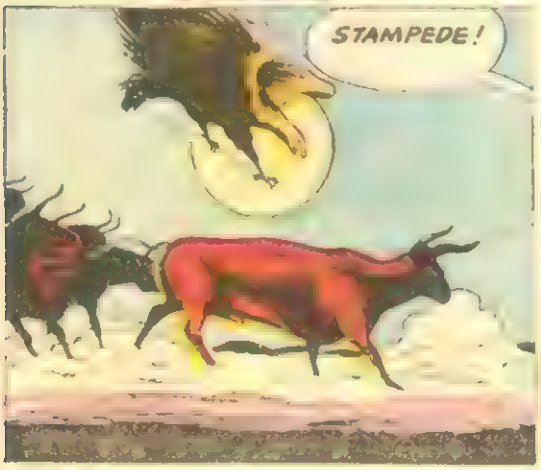
MASKED RAIDER



MASKED RAIDER

MASKED RAIDER

in THE HUNTSMAN



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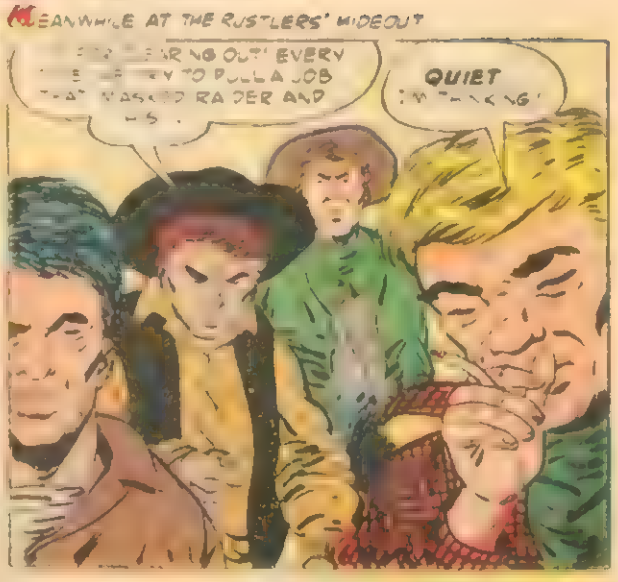
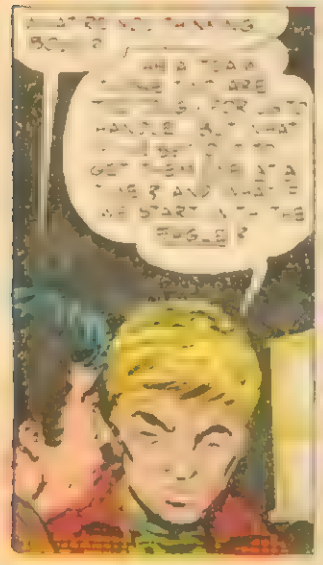
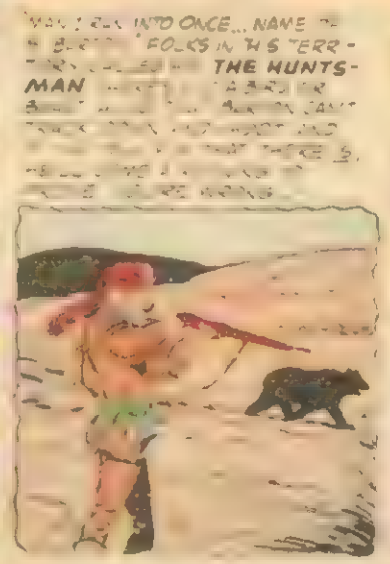






I GOT YOUR LETTER MASTER. WHERE IS THIS EAGLE THAT'S BEEN GIVING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE?
HOLD ON BARTON I'M GOOD TO SEE YOU REAL GOOD

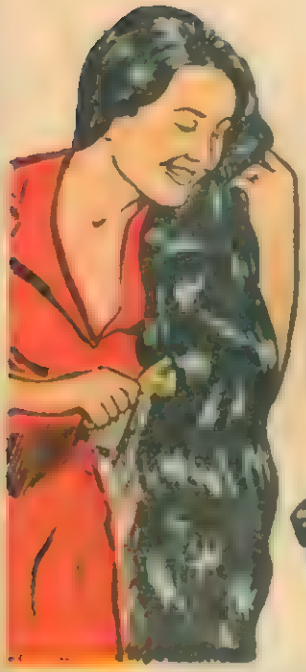
THERE AIN'T AN ORNERY MAN-EATING BIRD OR BEAST ALIVE THAT BIG BARTON CAN'T TRACK DOWN AND SHOOT! YOU HAVE MY WORD! I WON'T CLEAR THIS TERRITORY TILL THAT BIG BIRD IS CAPTURED!

MASKED RAIDER

THE LONG RIDE TO THE
CHICKEN WAGS TIED TO A
HORSESHOE THEY'LL
BRING HIM DOWN IN THE
LOWERING OVER THE
AFTERNOON
HE'S STILL UP
THERE WAITING.
BUT HE'LL HAVE TO COME DOWN
SOME TIME HE'LL COME DOWN
AT THAT MOMENT HE SAW
OUT OF RIFLE
RANGE
THE HOURS KEEP GOING BY
CAN HE STAY AWAKE NO FEAR OF MISSING
THE EAGLE
THAT HORSESHOE MOVES AS MUCH AS AN
INCH I'LL BE RIGHT AWAKE
TALON RUFFLES HIS FEATHERS AND SHOVES HIS BREAST
FORWARD LIKE HE WAS ABOUT TO DIVE ..BUT THEN.. HE
CHANGES HIS MIND! THE BIG BIRD'S RAZOR KEEN EYES
HAVE SPOTTED THOSE CHICKEN WAGS WAY DOWN BELOW
AND THEY LOOK MIGHTY APPETIZING. BUT THAT MAN
LYING IN THE BUSHES—HE PUZZLES TALON...
SUDDENLY HE
THE RANGER IS
HEY
DOZEN FAMISHED WOLVES. AND THE SHIFTING
WIND HAS JUST THEM A STRONG WHIFF OF MAN-SCENT!
TOO MANY OF THEM. CAN'T
KEEP THEM OFF MUCH LONGER.

MASKED RAIDER

NO NOW THE BIG BIRD COMES BEATING DOWN FROM THE CLIFF..
THE LEADER OF THE PACK. HE'S GOT THE LEADER.
HE'S TRYING TO FLY WITH HIM! BUT THE LOAD'S TOO HEAVY! THE PACK'S CLOSING BELOW.
HE'S HEADED RIGHT FOR THE CLIFF WALL! ONCE HE CRASHES THE PACK'LL CLOSE IN ON HIM.
LOOKS LIKE THOSE WOLVES'LL DO THE JOB FOR ME. LOOKS LIKE I WON'T HAVE TO USE THIS RIFLE AFTER ALL.



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MASKED RAIDER

JUST THEN HE'S VEERED [illegible] BUT NO HE'S FLYING FLATTER THAN BEFORE AND HE'S HEADED STRAIGHT FOR ANOTHER CLIFF WALL.

BUT THIS SECOND CLIFF IS THE ONE TALON'S BEEN LOOKING FOR. THE BIRD KNOWS HOW TO OUTFLY IT. THE KID WAS RIGHT. HE'S WAITING FOR A STRONG UPDRAFT..

THAT PULLS HIM UP IN A SLOW LAZY SPIRAL.

HE GOT AWAY FROM THE WOLVES... BUT HE'S NOT OUT OF MY RIFLE RANGE YET.

NOPE.. CAN'T SHOOT HIM! THAT BIRD DID ME A GOOD TURN, AND I JUST CAN'T!

YOU DID YOURSELF A GOOD TURN MISTER!

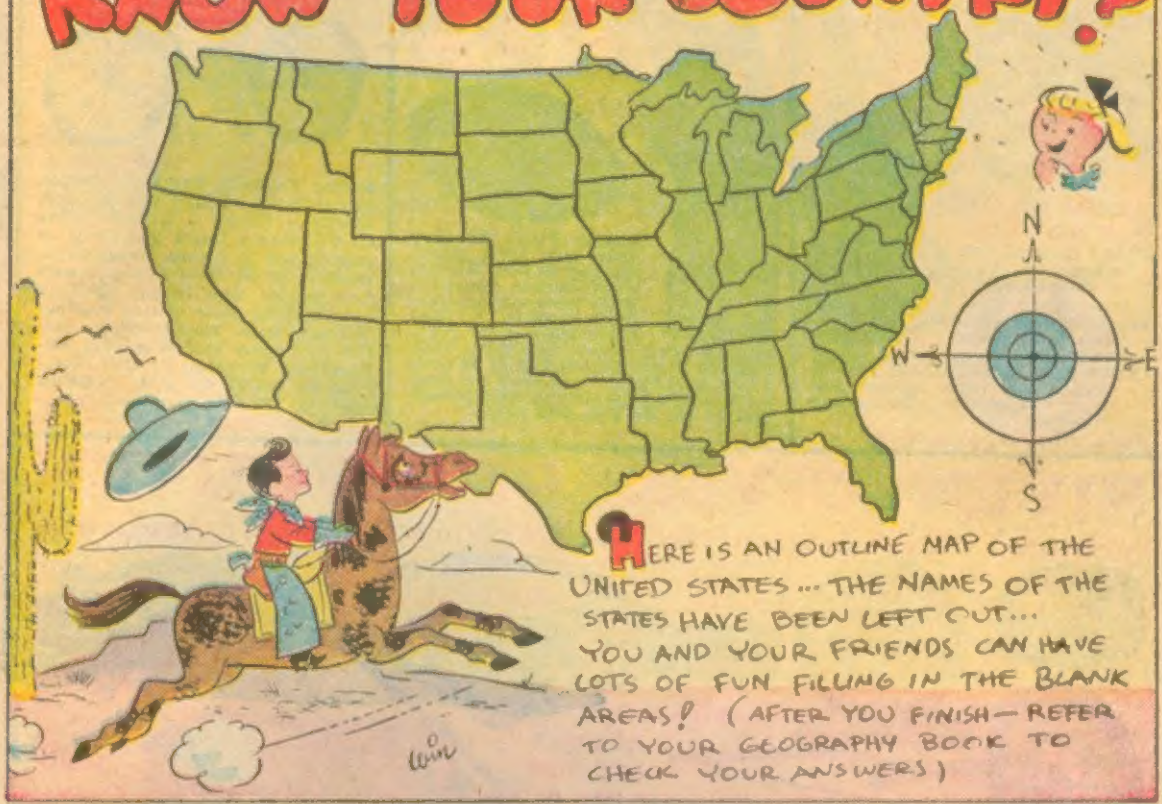
[illegible] AIN'T DO NOTHING TALON! WAS ABLE [illegible] ON HIS OWN AND [illegible] SORTA [illegible] NOW [illegible] FASTER.

LATER...

MMM. NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE GLAD I DON'T GET WHAT I WENT HUNTING FOR BUT NOW THAT I KNOW HOW THOSE VARMINTS GOT ME AFTER TALON.. WHAT ABOUT THE THREE OF US GOING AFTER THEM?

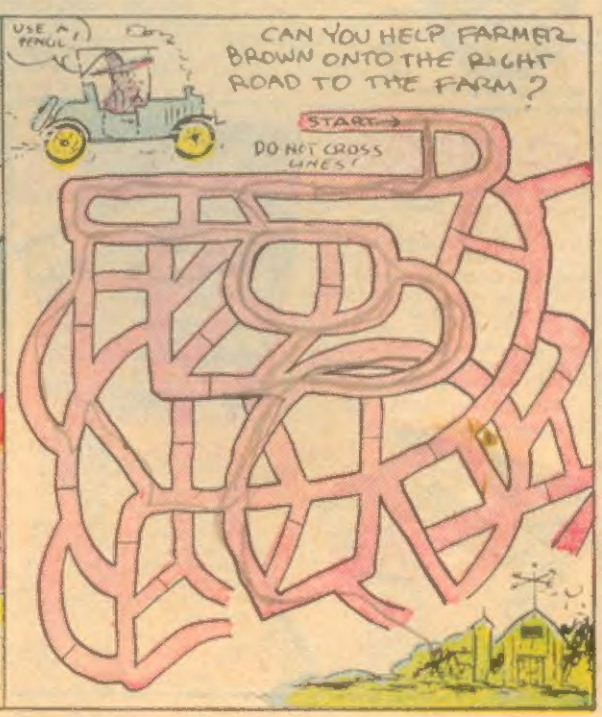
THE END

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR COUNTRY?



HERE IS AN OUTLINE MAP OF THE UNITED STATES... THE NAMES OF THE STATES HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT... YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS CAN HAVE LOTS OF FUN FILLING IN THE BLANK AREAS! (AFTER YOU FINISH—REFER TO YOUR GEOGRAPHY BOOK TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS)

FARMER BROWN'S COW HAS GIVEN 3 PAILS OF MILK
?
WHICH PAIL IS THE TALLEST MOOO?
Answer
THEY ARE ALL THE SAME SIZE! LINES GIVE AN OPTICAL ILLUSION



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BOYS
GIRLS
LADIES

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BE FIRST

ACT NOW

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